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this treatise takes up the subjects of taxation and public expenditures, devoting to the former subject three hundred and thirty-three pages.

This slight comparison between the works of Roscher and of Beaulieu will serve to impress the fact that the science of finance holds intimate relations to the structure of states and to the political purposes of peoples. It takes necessarily upon itself the local coloring of the time and place for which it is written. And the converse of this is also true. The absence from the literature of a people of any adequate treatise upon the science of finance shows them to be deficient in their appreciation of the importance of government. It is, then, no accident that financial topics have been treated by English and American writers as appendages to their works upon political economy; it is rather the logical result of the theory they have held respecting the limits of governmental control. Implicit trust in the regulative potency of competitive action is not conducive to the development of the science of finance. But there are many at the present time who are beginning to doubt the beneficent workings of unguarded competition, and who are willing to admit that personal liberty can only be maintained by preserving a just balance between public and private duties. Such persons must recognize the science of finance as a separate branch of economics, and grant to it its due importance in shaping the industrial as well as the political organization. And for such this work from the pen of Professor Roscher will be especially welcome.

HENRY C. ADAMS.

Nationaloekonomische Studien. Von GUSTAV COHN. Stuttgart, Ferdinand Enke, 1886.—8vo, 796. pp.

This is a volume of collected essays on a variety of topics in theoretical and practical economics and finance. Its author, Professor Cohn, of Göttingen, is favorably known not only as one of the soundest thinkers among the adherents of the new school of economics in Germany, but as a scholar who interests himself especially in the social development going on among English-speaking peoples. The latter fact accounts in a measure for the reasonable conservatism of his views.

Among the subjects treated in this work are co-operation, the normal labor-day, the fundamental right to freedom of industry, the relation of theory to practice in politics and economics, the necessity of more training in political science for those who are to enter official life in Prussia. In a series of criticisms which close the book, various themes, such as the present condition of English political economy, Chartism, the iron wage law of Lassalle, are briefly reviewed. The chief topics of finance dealt with are the recent reforms in taxation carried out by the Swiss,

especially in the Canton of Zürich ; the financial management of railroads ; the taxation of transactions in the stock exchange.

These essays are admirable examples of the best thought which the new school of economics has produced. The social standpoint is chosen and adhered to throughout the discussions. The comparative or historical method is enforced and employed, under the necessary limitations. The ethical character of political economy is always insisted upon. Hence, whenever the author touches the labor question, it is with a strong sympathy for the demands and efforts of the workingmen, tempered by a constant regard to the claims of the other classes involved. Historical development is a process so slow and difficult, that plans involving sweeping reforms must be rejected as impracticable. The author has no principles to defend either for or against state interference. He holds that the whole question is one of expediency, of technique. The shortcomings of both competition and state control are clearly recognized. The method of applying the two policies must be separately determined for each concrete case. The Constitution of the Swiss Confederation contains a clause insuring freedom of trade and industry throughout the land. Professor Cohn shows very neatly how the Cantons and the general government have applied the principle by stringent factory legislation, laws regulating the weight and quality of the bread sold by bakers, fixing the number of apothecaries who may do business in a town, and the like. The securing of freedom of traffic so easily guaranteed in democratic constitutions is shown to be a problem of the most difficult sort, not solved by letting things alone, but by an intelligent effort to satisfy conflicting interests. This work society must undertake and ever pursue, whether it will or not.

The question of restricting by statute the length of the day's labor is treated in a similar manner. It is a question of social expediency to be decided after studying the conditions favorable and unfavorable to the measure, which prevail in every group of employments, and comparing these on the one side with the sanitary, the economic, the intellectual, and the moral advantages which might come to the laborers if the hours of labor were shortened. The more thoroughly this method is used in the treatment of economic problems, the more careful scientists and statesmen will become in their advocacy of reforms. Professor Cohn is of the opinion that the day of eleven hours is about as short as the interests of society in Germany will bear.

On questions of taxation the view of the author is that the expenditures of states are increasing, and must continue so to do. This arises from the great variety of social problems which the state or local governments must undertake to solve. Hence arises the necessity of inculcating the duty of paying taxes, as contributions toward the realization

of social ideals. Therefore the idea that the state or its government is a something apart from and foreign to the taxpayer is to be supplanted by the correct conception that the state is an all encompassing organism with the welfare of which that of the individual is involved. The author discovers from his study of Swiss finance that the tendency among democracies is strong toward indirect taxation; that the regulations about valuation and collection are made inadequate in order to spare the liberty of the individual; that when the progressive income tax is resorted to, its tendency is to make the progression rapid, and the minimum of taxable incomes high. While most of these tendencies are to be encouraged in a monarchical state, on theoretical grounds, though without much hope of practical result, they are to be discouraged in a democracy. The author prefers the direct form of taxation. He regards the stock exchange as a means of transportation, like the railroad, the telegraph, the bank. The function which it performs is similar to theirs, and its existence is to be justified on the same grounds. Therefore, although great evils appear in it, yet theoretically the business done in it should not be subjected to closer examination, or the profits obtained taxed more heavily than those of kindred employments.

H. L. OSGOOD.

Adam Smith, sa vie, ses travaux, ses doctrines. Par ALBERT DELATOUR. Ouvrage couronné par l'Académie des sciences morales et politiques. Paris, Guillaumin et C^{ie}, 1886. — 8vo, viii, 325 pp.

It is remarkable that among the thousands of books on economic subjects, not one should have been devoted to a successful and adequate description of the position of the greatest mind in the history of the science. For the works and essays of Oncken, Skarzynski, Bagehot, Studnitz, Ricca-Salerno, Helferich, and the rest, are all insufficient, — not one of these can claim to be an exhaustive and critical estimate of Adam Smith's real position. Scarcely more successful, in fact in some respects far less successful, is the ambitious work of M. Delatour, notwithstanding the fact that it received the Léon Faucher prize of 2000 fr., and was crowned by the academy of moral and political sciences. The first portion of the work (pages 1-73), which is devoted to the biography, throws no new light on any of the vexed questions, and adds but little to what Dugald Stewart has told us; but this may perhaps be excused for the reason that no better materials for relating the story of his life exist. The remainder of the book consists in a short account of Smith's work in ethics, philology, and philosophy (pages 80-114), and in a detailed description of the *Wealth of Nations*, made up of extracts with